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Yet what alone gives warmth and color to the historian's pen is the story of the Catholic Reformation. To it he brings a wealth of fresh material, and mainly from unpublished sources. Even for the rise of the Jesuits he uses not only the flood of information which the order itself has just been putting into print in its *Monumenta* and its provincial histories, but contributes much of his own. On the less orthodox Italian reformers, too, he throws much valuable light—notably on the career of Ochino, whose apostasy he counts “the event which forms the real crisis in the history of the Catholic reform movement in Italy”. But was not that “Agostino Piemontese” (the “Augustinus Pedemontanus” of Polanco and Orlandini) who dared in 1538 to preach crypto-Protestantism even in Rome itself the well-known Piedmontese Augustinian, Mainardi, who in 1539 found in Chiavenna a safer and more lasting pulpit?

GEORGE L. BURR.

*The Strength of England: a Politico-Economic History of England from Saxon Times to the Reign of Charles the First.* By J. W. WELSFORD, M.A. With a preface by W. CUNNINGHAM, D.D., F.B.A. (London and New York: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1910. Pp. xviii, 362.)

THIS work is described in its subtitle as *A Politico-Economic History of England from Saxon Times to the Reign of Charles the First*. It is also designated in a preface by Professor Cunningham as an “essay”. As such it should be considered. It is not a history in the usual sense of the word. It makes no contribution of new knowledge to the subject, nor does it undertake to state the familiar facts of English history either in a pleasing arrangement for literary purposes, or in a brief form to be used as a text-book. Nor indeed does it profess to give a well-balanced statement of the most recent knowledge of English history in all its aspects. It is rather a rapid résumé of the subject, laying stress on foreign relations, political and commercial, and giving such an explanation of them as will show the desirability of a policy of protection to native industry and commerce.

If this ideal is accepted the book can be praised as having been done with much sincerity, intelligence, and information. The author has evidently read quite widely and thought independently. He has emancipated himself from merely traditional statements and explanations. As a result one is constantly struck in reading his book with his new ideas, bold suggestions, and original interpretations. A student of English history is frequently forced to reconsider some of his familiar views. Moreover, if all the statements and explanations in this book are true the author makes out a good historical argument for protection. As a matter of fact one gets somewhat tired of the economic explanation. The English Reformation was economic rather than religious; the disso-

lution of the monasteries and the execution of Charles I. were both largely due to the decline in the value of the precious metals; "Spain neglected her workers and thus lost her freedom and colossal strength, whilst by pursuing an opposite policy England became both strong and free"; it was due to Elizabeth's protective system that she could restore the coinage, maintain the navy, subsidize French and Dutch Protestants, and defeat the Armada.

One has a haunting feeling that a writer equally convinced of the desirability of a policy of freedom of trade could write an equally good history of England, and prove his point just as clearly. For after all this is not very good history. The light way in which the author uses the expression "thousands of years", as applied to the use of certain trade-routes, to the period which intervened between the Greek and the Arthurian legends, and to the age of Constantinople, his references to the "many thousands" of men who were put to death for witchcraft in England and as many in Scotland, are typical instances of a certain recklessness of statement which lies at the opposite pole of thought from the moderation and caution of the real historical student. Consequently one is not surprised to find it stated that Spain and Portugal controlled access to the eastern trade-routes in the twelfth century, that Becket opposed the constitutions of Clarendon because they were hard on the serfs that the power of the papacy increased and declined in proportion to the income it was able to draw from the prospering or decaying monasteries of Europe, that the Third Estate in France was a democratic body, that the pope drew a larger revenue from England than the king, all of which statements are demonstrably untrue.

Such misconceptions make one doubtful of other generalizations which can hardly be disproved but which one may hesitate to accept in the absence of positive proofs. Such are Mr. Welsford's theory that English medieval liberty was saved by the policy of protection of their home trade pursued by London and other towns, that the wars of the Roses were the result of different economic policies followed by Yorkists and Lancastrians and many others. The author defends the policy of the Stuart kings, and has small sympathy for the Puritans and parliamentarians who were so factiously opposing them. It is a matter of regret that Mr. Welsford's death occurred before his history had come further down in time than the middle years of the seventeenth century. Nevertheless, historical work must be much more rigorously done than this before it can be used to teach one doctrine or another of practical statesmanship, and before it will satisfy both the historian and the economist.

E. P. CHEYNEY.